

GLOSSOP-DALE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL * REPORT


— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

GLOSSOP :

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To the Members of the

DISTRICT * COUNCIL.

THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE GLOSSOP-DALE DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

The circumstances of the Borough of Glossop and of the Rural District of Glossop-Dale being in some respects similar, though in others different, I present you with copies of my Urban Report.

In it I have discussed some public health aspects of the education question, which, although you are not the Education Authority for your district, may yet be interesting to you.

There is another aspect of the education question which is of interest to you in a rural district.

Your population in 1891 was 4,383 ; in 1901 it was 4,151.

Is it not possible that classes on rural and agricultural subjects might tend to interest the people in rural matters, and have a tendency to retard the flow of population from the country into the towns? It is not a complete answer to this argument that the classes would at first be poorly attended, for, though few might avail themselves of the advantages at first, the many might be attracted by experience of the benefit obtained by these few.

In my report to you for 1903 I dealt pretty fully with the subject of disposal of offensive matters in a rural district. I do not intend to go over this subject again, except to remark that as you have now a sewerage system for Ludworth, it is desirable that water closets and ashbins should be adopted in Marple Bridge, instead of privy middens, and that the sewage at Gamesley demands early attention.

I may repeat what I have said before, that the shallow wells, which are in so many cases the water supply for houses in the district, should be protected from contamination, and that the water should be brought to the houses in impervious pipes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Let us consider the prevalent disease

SMALL-POX.

With the exception of a contact case at the Borough Hospital, at Gamesley, in 1903, no case of this disease has originated in your district during the epidemic. I think probably this may be partly attributed to the fact that you have no

LODGING-HOUSES

in your district, and that the Workhouse for the district is in the Borough. These facts do not prevent tramps from passing along your roads, but they prevent you from being a centre for tramps, and, no doubt, diminish the number on the roads.

By a resolution passed in a previous year, you have enacted vigorous means for limitation of infection, if, unfortunately, we were to have an outbreak.

The Glossop Sanitary Authority have done their best to save you by stamping out the disease in the Borough.

On July 6th, 1904, a bill describing the prominent symptoms of Small-pox, and advising the public of the necessity for immediate notification, was prepared for distribution at Marple Bridge.

SCARLET FEVER.

We had four cases of this disease in 1904, against seven cases in 1903; thirty-two cases in 1902; seven cases in 1901; and fifteen cases in 1900.

Of the four cases in 1904, one was at Cottage Lane, on the borders of the Borough, and three in one family at Compstall Bridge, again near the border of your district.

One case was removed to Chinley Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

There were two cases of Diphtheria—one in Charlesworth and one in Ludworth—in 1904; none in 1903; one case of Membranous Croup in 1902; four cases of Diphtheria in 1901; and one case in 1900.

ERYSIPELAS.

We have had two cases of this affection in 1904, against three cases in 1903; three cases in 1902; two cases in 1901; and three cases in 1900.

TYPHOID FEVER.

We have had two cases of this disease—both in Charlesworth—in 1904, against two cases in 1903; six cases in 1902; two cases in 1901; and two cases in 1900.

One of our cases in 1904 was removed to Chinley Hospital.

There were, altogether, ten cases of notifiable disease in the district in 1904. Directions for disinfection were given by me and the Inspector. There were no deaths from any of the zymotic diseases in 1904.

Facilities are afforded by the kindness of the County Council for Bacteriological Examinations, in cases of Typhoid and Diphtheria, at the University of Birmingham.

The power of removing cases of notifiable disease, other than Small-pox, to Chinley Infectious Hospital is a great advantage, but access to a Steam Disinfector nearer home would be an additional advantage.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has now been in force for five years. I recommend the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890.

VISITS PAID BY MEDICAL OFFICER IN ADDITION TO VISITS TO INFECTIOUS CASES.

On April 20th, in consequence of a complaint, I visited Charlesworth Reservoir, and found that the complaint was due to a mistake.

On May 4th I visited Higher Woodseats to inspect water.

On July 28th I visited a house at Marple Bridge. I paid subsequent visits on August 17th and October 22nd. The house has now ceased to be used as a dwelling-house, and has been renovated for use as a shop.

On December 7th I visited, in company with the Inspector, a shop in Ludworth. The result of our investigations was reported to you at considerable length, and we expect that some sanitary defects will be amended.

BYE-LAWS.

The Rural District has bye-laws in force for Common Lodging-houses, and for New Streets and Buildings, as well as regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Order.

The Bye-laws for Common Lodging-houses were allowed by the Local Government Board on October 10th, 1878, but, as already stated, there are no Common Lodging-houses in the district.

NUISANCES ABATED.

The Inspector reports 64 notices served for abatement of Nuisances, and reports abatement in 63 cases.

The Inspector has disinfected four houses, three on account of Scarlet Fever, and one for Diphtheria.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 71 on the register. The Inspector has made 36 inspections.

BAKE-HOUSES.

There are 4 in the District, *i.e.*, 2 in Charlesworth, and 2 in Ludworth. The Inspector has made 7 visits, and reports them clean and satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is 1 in Charlesworth, and 1 in Marple Bridge.

The Inspector has made 5 visits, and reports them satisfactory.

WORKSHOPS.

There are 16 workshops on the register.

The Inspector has made 12 visits, and has served 2 notices for infringement.

STATISTICS.

The Area of the District	17,893 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses (census 1901) ...	922
Average Number of Persons per house	4·5
Population (census 1901)	4151

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The births in the district during 1904 were 38 boys and 38 girls, giving a total of 76. The rate per thousand was 18·3.

The nett deaths in the district during 1904 were 49. The rate per thousand was 11·8.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 5. The rate per thousand births was 65·8.

Between the census of 1891 and that of 1901 there was a decrease of population of 232.

The excess of births over deaths in 1904 was 27. This gives a natural rate of increase of 0·650 per cent., against 0·626 in 1903 ; 0·216 in 1902 ; and 0·602 in 1901.

There is a well-known tendency to migrate from country districts into towns, which tendency I have referred to at the beginning of my report. Taking this in conjunction with the rate of natural increase, and the above-mentioned reduction, I have considered it safest to estimate the birth and death rates on a stationary population.

The Census Population of Charlesworth was 1,967.

Deaths in 1904 ...	...	...	...	...	23
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	...	11·7

The Population of Chisworth was 409.

Deaths in 1904 ...	...	..	...	...	1
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	...	2·4

The Population of Ludworth was 1,775.

Deaths in 1904 ...	...	...	...	...	25
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	...	14·1

As I have already stated we have had no deaths from zymotic disease, and therefore no zymotic death rate.

There were four deaths from Phthisis in 1904, giving a death rate of 0·96 per thousand.

There were five deaths in 1903, giving a death rate of 1·20; three in 1902, giving a death rate of 0·72; and three deaths in 1901.

There were two deaths from other tubercular diseases in 1904; four deaths in 1903; and none in 1901 or 1902.

The deaths in the district in 1904 were from the following diseases.

Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Tubercular Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer and Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1
Non-classified Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15

The Birth, Death, and Infantile Death Rate for the last nine years were as follows :—

		Birth Rate.		Death Rate.		Infantile Death Rate.
1896	...	25·5	...	20·1	...	165
1897	...	21·2	...	14·8	...	155
1898	...	23·4	...	13·0	...	80·8
1899	...	21·4	...	13·8	...	166·6

		Birth Rate.		Death Rate.		Infantile Death Rate.
1900	...	21·8	...	13·4	...	76·9
1901	...	21·4	...	15·4	...	101·1
1902	...	16·3	...	14·2	...	102·9
1903	...	20·2	...	13·9	...	83·3
1904	...	18·3	...	11·8	...	65·8

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

Duncan J. Mackenzie, M.D.

Loch Maree House,

Glossop,

February 27th, 1905.



